

baths come together each year and thus changing the Jewish Sabbath to a different day in our week each year, so that every seven years their sabbath had been kept on every day of the week under the Christian cycle.

Our point is this, that there are certain great events in the world's history, from the Christian standpoint, that should be kept prominently in view. The Creation Sabbath, the giving of the Law on Sinai, and the Resurrection of Christ. Mark the beginning of eras that should be sacredly kept in mind and presented as the Bible presents them. The various changes made in the calendars since those events transpired should be set aside, rather than the facts as taught in God's book. Pentecost was no unusual occasion in the year of the crucifixion. It was a fixed event of every year in God's calendar, from the Exodus to the crucifixion, and so far as its importance goes it ended with the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ and so it should be taught, and it evidently occurred on Nisan, or April 14, and not on the 9.

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#### CONTINUED IN EVIL

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In a renewed reading of the history of the great body of the Jews during Christ's ministry and immediately subsequent to it I am strongly impressed by the fact that, notwithstanding the marvelous displays of divine power in attestation of the truth that Christ was the Son of God and that opposition to him was opposition to God himself, those Jews persistently continued in their evil course.

One would suppose that the scenes connected with Christ's death and resurrection, being so overshadowed by the divine presence and power, would have produced so fearful an influence over the opposing Jews as to cause them to at least, abandon their active hostility towards Christ's people, even if they would not accept Christ as their Saviour and Lord, but such was not the case. Right in the face of the most stupendous demonstrations of almighty power in relation to the crucifixion of Christ and his unparalleled resurrection those Jews continued to doggedly wage warfare against the apostles and disciples.

It seems that all of the wonderful displays of heavenly power, resulting in great commotion among many of the common people, and calling out from the centurion the confession, "Truly, this was the Son of God," availed nothing with the mass of the unbelieving Jews, including the high priest, the rulers, elders and scribes. These people seemed to have learned nothing from the experiences thru which they had passed. They were all the while professing to believe in God, and yet, as Christ had repeatedly told them, they really did not believe in God, else they would not have treated Christ as they did. The truth is they were more ter-

ribly blinded in sin than thousands of ordinary sinners were, even those whom they greatly despised.

And one significant lesson which grows out of this whole history of reckless sinning is that the great mass of ungodly people will continue right along in their career of evil, in spite of divine judgments and heavenly warnings. Neither the thunders of Sinai nor the wooings of the gospel will persuade them to abandon their opposition to God. The character which a man has when he dies will continue with him in the eternal world.

#### CAN A CHRISTIAN BE A UNITED STATES SOLDIER?

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TEXT:—Then said Jesus unto him, Put up thy sword again into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Matt. 26:52

War is a mighty avalanche, which, when precipitated upon a country, carries before it in awful destruction, churches, factories, orchards, grain-fields, men, women and children, tearing, wrecking, mangling, crushing, until her beautiful valleys lie buried beneath one vast mass of blood-soaked debris. It is the scourge of scourges, the curse of curses, the plague of plagues. It feeds on blood, thrives on tears, revels mid groans. Nor is the power of this gorgonian monster decreasing in the least. A few years ago, three million men stood in arms in Europe. Today, twenty million stand ready to march at the call of the bugle. She has made herself implements, whose power to shatter men to gore, surpasses all imagination. She stands ready at a moment's notice to drench the world in blood, and bathe it with tears, as never she has in all dark ages past.

And this is the hydra-headed monster that is encouraged and blessed even by men set aside to preach the gospel of peace and good-will. This is the monster that is fed the fat of the land,—gold, silver and human souls. May God hasten the day when he shall drive the spike of his eternal vengeance thru this Moloch's head, and "men shall learn war no more."

We are asked, may there not be circumstances that would justify war? Perhaps! But we come not here this morning to attempt to answer that question. We will not argue at this time the right of a man who knows no God, who has no guardian angel, to raise his arm in his own defense, or to defend those he may love. He knows no other protector than the human arm. But we do come here to question the right of a man, around whom are encamped the angels of God,—I say we do question his right to put a bullet into the heart of any man. We believe the moment he raises the arm of flesh, God leaves him to stand or fall behind that self-same arm. For me, I would rather have one angel of my God to stand by my side as my protector, than all the police of these United States,—yes, I would rather have the

prayer of one Elijah in defense of my country than all her forts and battleships. Yes, like Elisha, I would rather have the horsemen of God and the chariots thereof, to stand between my beloved and the hosts of Syria, than all the armies of Europe. May God open the eye of flesh, that we may see and believe that "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them," and that, "He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, to keep thee in all thy ways," and that "The angels, are they not ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

Why do men need swords, spears, bayonets, hot shot and shell? Because of their unbelief. The "Angel of the Lord," the Commander-in-Chief of heaven's armies, the mighty warrior that smote Sennacherib and in one night left one hundred eighty-five thousand Assyrians, corpses on the field,— "The Angel of the Lord," is the Christian's defender.

War is unnecessary. Unnecessary shedding of blood is wrong. Therefore no Christian can engage in it. Often a revolution is the only way to liberty. But revolutions can come without storms of fire and hurricanes of blood. The greatest revolution the world has yet seen, came without the tempest of bursting shell or the clash of swords. Calm and silent as God himself, came the Christ. "He did not cry nor cause his voice to be heard in the street." Clothed with the strength of Truth, nerved by the omnipotence of conscious right, he went forward, conquering and to conquer, revolutionizing, turning upside down the old order of things, establishing the new, planting everywhere on captured citadels the banner of His Church,—never to be furled while rolls the sun or march the stars. "Resist not evil," cried this great Leader sent from God. "Fanaticism!" cries the world. Nevertheless, know ye, that that "fanaticism,"—a religion based on principles of non-resistance, and *living* her principles, has gone forth, changing not only the methods, but the very hearts of men. "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." Not Waterloos nor Gettysburgs, but martyrs' stakes, mark the path of human progress.

But have not, you ask, revolutions of blood, such as the American Revolution, resulted in furthering the cause of human freedom and justice? Perhaps so! The Psalmist declared that "the wrath of man shall praise God," and doubtless God has at times over-ruled man's wrath for man's welfare. But do results always justify means? If so, then is Judas justified in betraying the Christ! Then is Pilate justified in delivering the Son of God to be scourged and crucified! No, no! We cannot go to results for the justification of the means.

War is unnecessary for all that has ever been attained by war can be attained in a better way. It is fairly estimated that the Civil War cost over six billion of dollars in